



Government of Saskatchewan

Public Opinion Polling

from January 1, 2002 – March 31, 2002

Government of Saskatchewan

Public Opinion Polling

from January 1, 2002 – March 31, 2002

Additional copies available from:

Communications Coordination Unit
Executive Council
Rm. 130, Walter Scott Building
3085 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B1

Phone: (306) 787-6276

Fax: (306) 787-6123

You may also obtain copies from our website:

www.executive.gov.sk.ca

Department/Crown commissioning the work:

Executive Council

Date: January, 2002

Supplier: Fast Consulting
Saskatoon

Cost: \$22,500.00

Omnibus
Provincial Public Opinion Survey

Prepared for:

Saskatchewan Executive Council
113 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Submitted by:



112 – 112 Research Drive
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 3R3
Tel: 956-3070
Fax: 956-3663

January 2002

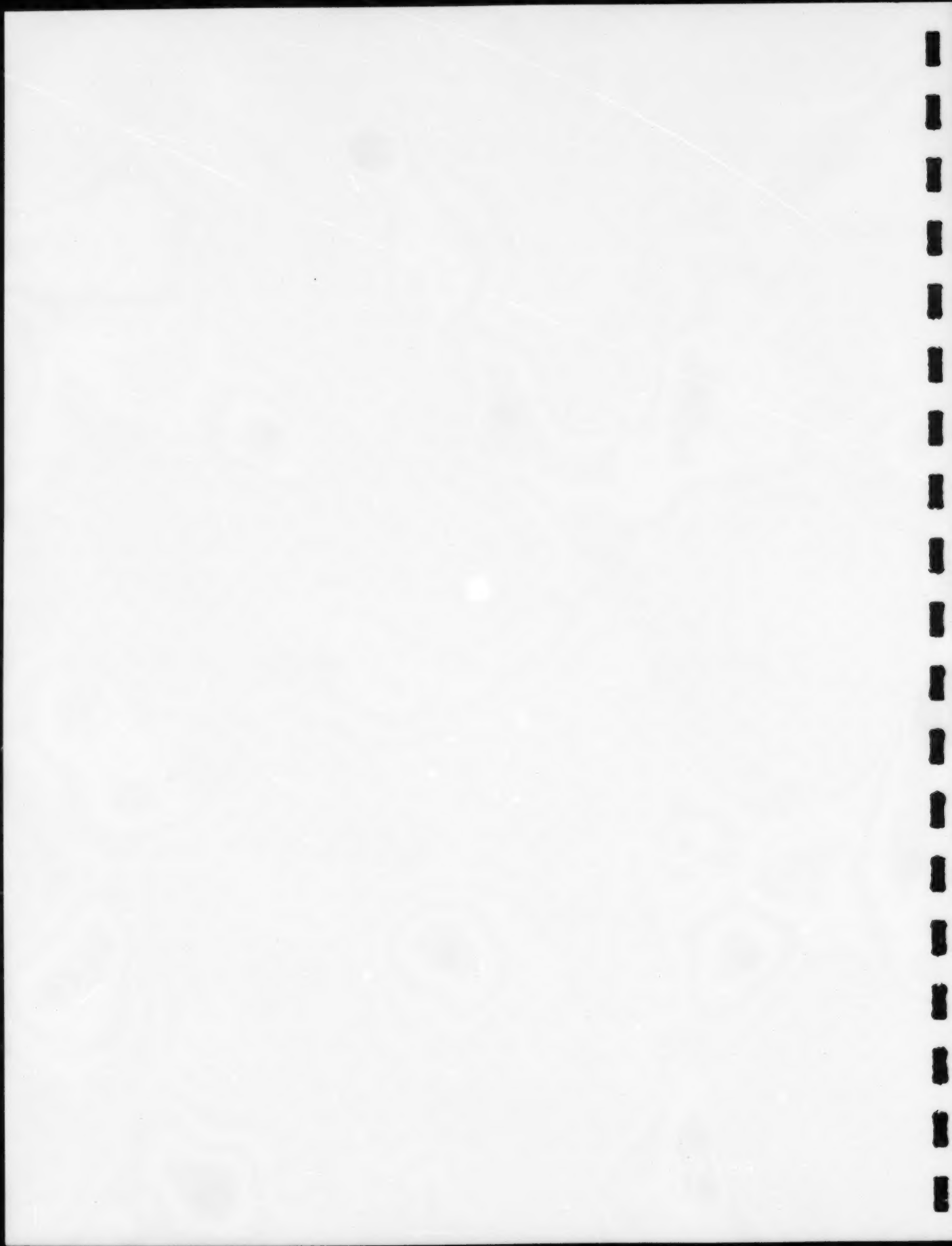
TABLE OF CONTENTS

January 2002

<i>Executive Summary</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Methodology</i>	<i>ii</i>

1.0	GENERAL ISSUES	1
2.0	INTERGOVERNMENTAL & ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS	4
3.0	ACCOUNTABILITY	9
4.0	HEALTH CARE	11
5.0	SOCIAL SERVICES	22

Appendix I	Survey Instrument
Appendix II	Survey Demographics



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Federal issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include health care, the economy, jobs and unemployment and international issues.
- Provincial issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include health care, agriculture, jobs and unemployment and provincial taxes.
- The majority of residents approve of the way the provincial government is handling the environment and education. Approximately one half approve of the way the provincial government is handling the policing of communities and the economy. More than one third of residents approve of the way it's handling provincial finances, social services and taxes. Approximately one third approve of the way the provincial government is handling highways and transportation, Aboriginal issues, health care and agriculture.
- Approximately three quarters of Saskatchewan residents think it is important that their government is competent and honest; the majority think it is very important. Two thirds of residents also place a high value on a government that exhibits a willingness to listen, is accountable, fair and compassionate.
- The majority of residents are aware that Saskatchewan celebrates its Centennial in 2005 and one half think the Government of Saskatchewan is involved in planning for the Centennial. The majority of Saskatchewan residents intend to participate in Centennial activities.
- Provincial residents identify the top three man-made, or built, tourist attractions in Saskatchewan as Deifenbaker Lake and Dam, Blackstrap Provincial and Winter Sports Park and Moose Jaw Temple Gardens.
- In January 2002 only about one quarter of residents had heard about the recently announced Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care.
- Approximately one quarter of those residents who are aware of the Action Plan think that the main focus of the Plan is recruiting, retaining and training more health providers and addressing the number of health districts. Many residents think the Plan is focused on developing a comprehensive long term plan for health care in Saskatchewan, reducing waiting times for surgery, or on doctors, nurses and other working teams as well as rural hospitals.
- Most Saskatchewan residents expressing an opinion expect health services in the province to improve or stay the same over the next 10 years.
- Although the number of people in Saskatchewan receiving welfare has decreased over the last four years, the majority of Saskatchewan residents are of the impression that the number has actually increased or stayed the same. More than one in ten residents have heard about the government program called "Building Independence". Although public awareness of the program is relatively low, perceptions regarding its purpose appear to be accurate.

METHODOLOGY

Fast Consulting conducted the January 2002 public opinion survey for the Government of Saskatchewan with a representative sample of the Saskatchewan population. The January Omnibus Survey contains questions designed to explore public opinion in the areas of:

- federal issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- provincial issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- intergovernmental affairs;
- finance;
- health care; and
- social services.

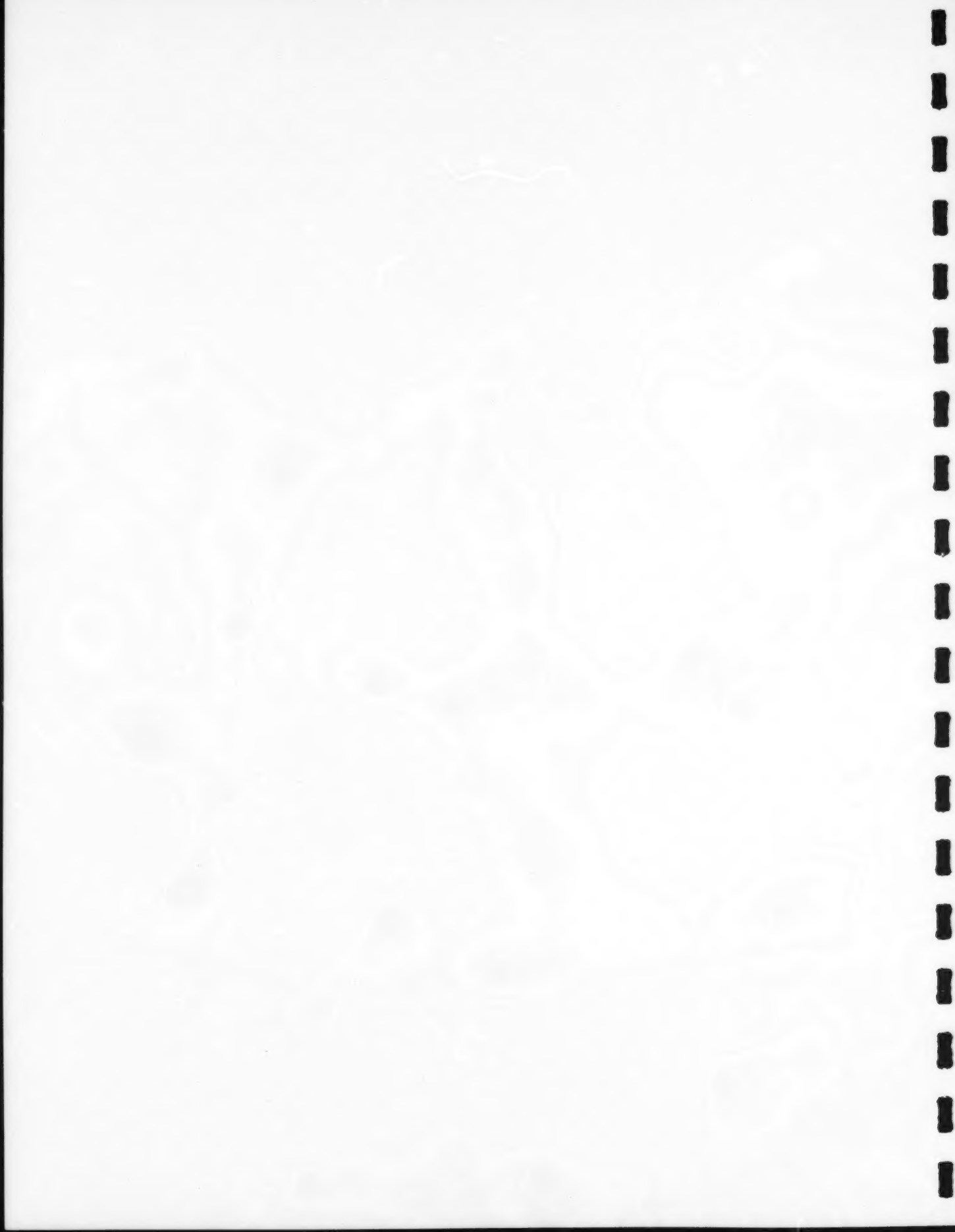
Questions for the survey were provided by various departments within the Government of Saskatchewan and assembled into an interview format by Fast Consulting. The questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure that all of the questions being asked in the interview were understood by the general public and the information being gathered addressed the public opinion research objectives.

The sample frame for this public opinion research survey was constructed to obtain complete interviews from a random sample of 1,000 households throughout Saskatchewan. To ensure proportionate representation from all areas of Saskatchewan, the province was divided into nine geographic sampling districts. Interview respondents were selected randomly from Saskatchewan telephone directories in each region using standard polling practices to ensure random selection of households and respondents. The sampling frame was also constructed to ensure proportionate representation of other important demographic characteristics evident within the provincial population such as gender, age, occupation, level of education and level of household income. This ensures that the opinions of all the various types of people who reside in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report.

One thousand residents of the province were interviewed between Tuesday, January 22 and Tuesday, February 5, 2002. Interviews were conducted by telephone at times that were appropriate and convenient for respondents - weekdays between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and weekends between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All interviews were conducted by Fast Consulting's in-house public opinion interviewers using our *Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing* (CATI) call centre.

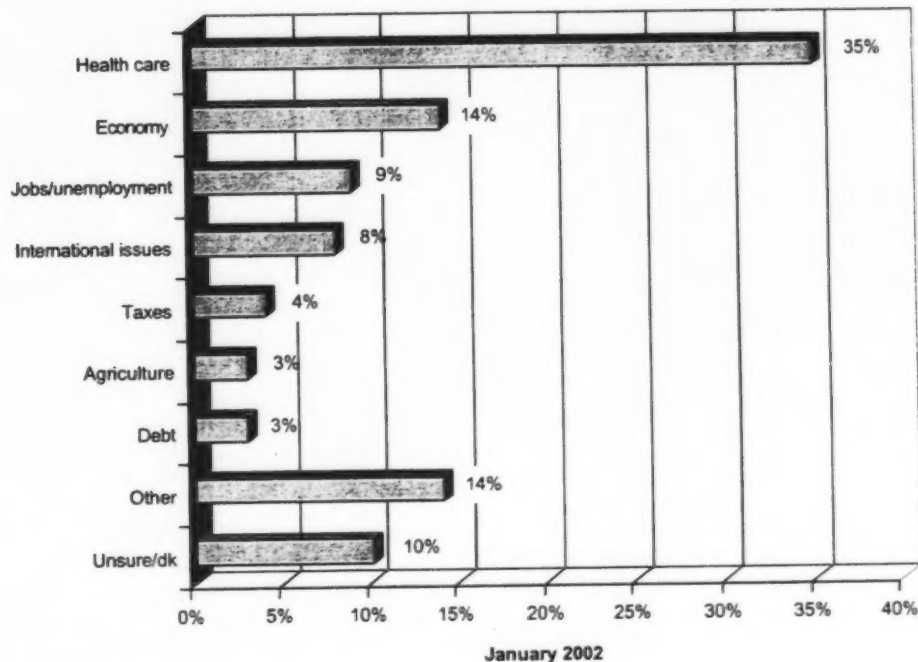
The Omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points: reliable results with low variability. Frequency charts for all public opinion issues are illustrated in this report.

Fast Consulting designed and implemented programs to facilitate the statistical analysis of data using the industry standard SPSS computer program (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Data checking procedures were utilized at all times to ensure accuracy of the data. In addition, statistical tests were conducted on the demographics to check for reliability and validity of the survey data.



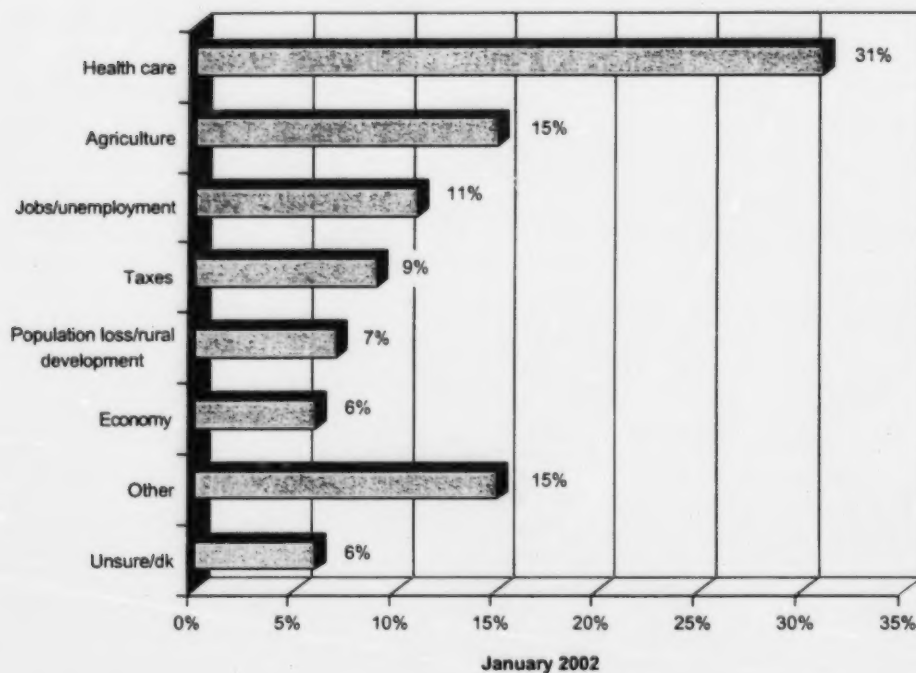
1.0 GENERAL ISSUES

Question 1. What do you think is the most important issue facing Canada today?



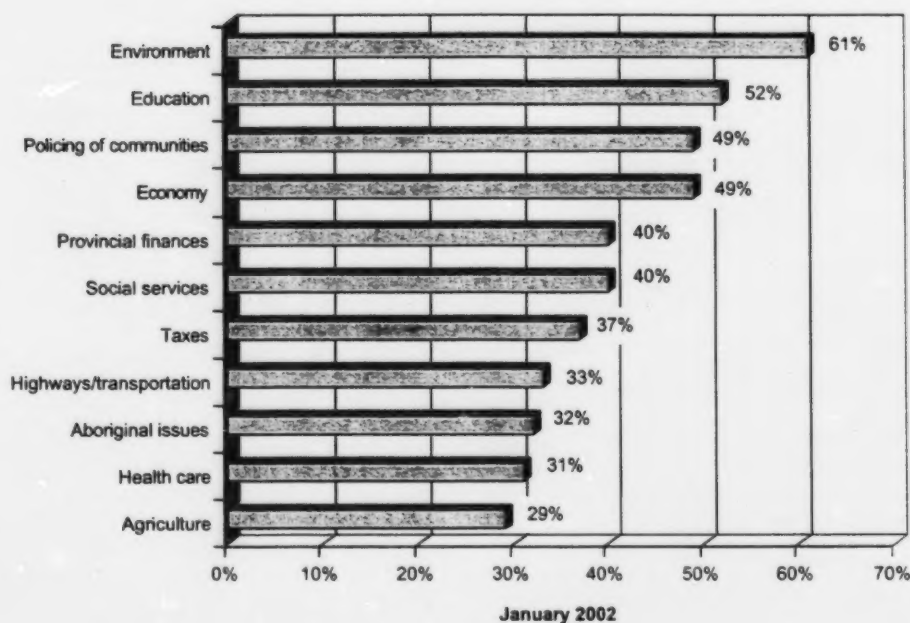
- According to 35% of Saskatchewan residents, the most important issue facing Canada today is the health care system. Other important issues include the economy (14%), jobs and unemployment (9%), international issues (8%), federal taxes (4%), agriculture (3%) and the national deficit and accumulated debt (3%).
- Approximately 14% of respondents are primarily concerned with 'other' issues such as the federal government in general (2%), national unity (2%), education (1%), crime and poverty (1%), political salaries and benefits (1%) and Native issues (1%).

Question 2. What do you think is the most important issue facing the province of Saskatchewan today?



- The most important issue facing the province today, according to 31% of Saskatchewan residents, is health care. Approximately 15% of residents are concerned primarily with agriculture, 11% with jobs and unemployment, 9% with provincial taxes, 7% with population loss and rural development and 6% are concerned with the provincial economy.
- Included among 'other' important issues identified by 15% of respondents are the provincial government in general (3%), crime and poverty (2%), Native issues (2%), the provincial debt (1%) and business and industry (1%).

Question 3. How much do you approve of the way the provincial government is handling the following...



Note: the above chart combines strongly and moderately approve to give a combined approval rating.

- The majority of Saskatchewan residents approve of the way the provincial government is handling the environment (61%) and education (52%).
- Approximately one half of residents approve of the way the provincial government is handling the policing of communities (49%) and the economy (49%).
- More than one third approve of the way its handling provincial finances (40%), social services (40%) and taxes (37%).
- Approximately one third of Saskatchewan residents approve of the way the provincial government is handling highways and transportation (33%), Aboriginal issues (32%), health care (31%) and agriculture (29%).

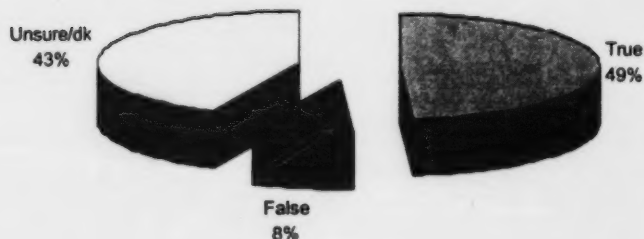
2.0 INTERGOVERNMENTAL & ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Question 4. Are you aware that Saskatchewan celebrates its Centennial in 2005?



- The majority (59%) of Saskatchewan residents are aware that Saskatchewan celebrates its Centennial in 2005.

Question 5. Can you tell me if it is true or false, is the Government of Saskatchewan involved in planning for the Centennial?



- Approximately one half (49%) of residents think the Government of Saskatchewan is currently planning for the Centennial.

**IMPORTANT NOTE CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING
PAGES**

**THE PAGES WHICH FOLLOW HAVE BEEN FILMED
TWICE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BEST
REPRODUCTIVE QUALITY**

**USERS SHOULD CONSULT ALL THE PAGES
REPRODUCED ON THE FICHE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN
A COMPLETE READING OF THE TEXT.**

**REMARQUE IMPORTANTE CONCERNANT LES
PAGES QUI SUIVENT**

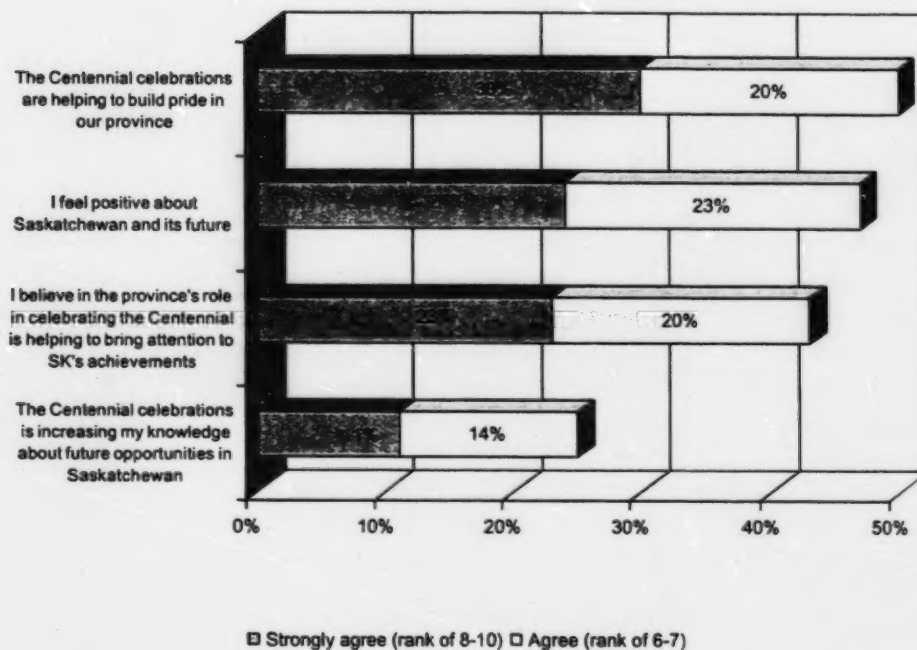
**LES PAGES SUIVANTES ONT ÉTÉ REPRODUITES EN
DOUBLE AFIN D'AMÉLIORER LA QUALITÉ DE
REPRODUCTION**

**LES UTILISATEURS DOIVENT CONSULTER TOUTES
LES PAGES REPRODUITES SUR LA FICHE AFIN
D'OBTENIR LA LECTURE DU TEXTE INTÉGRAL**

Micromedia
ProQuest

20 Victoria Street
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2N8
Tel.: (416) 362-5211
Toll Free: 1-800-387-2689
Fax: (416) 362-6161
Email: info@micromedia.on.ca

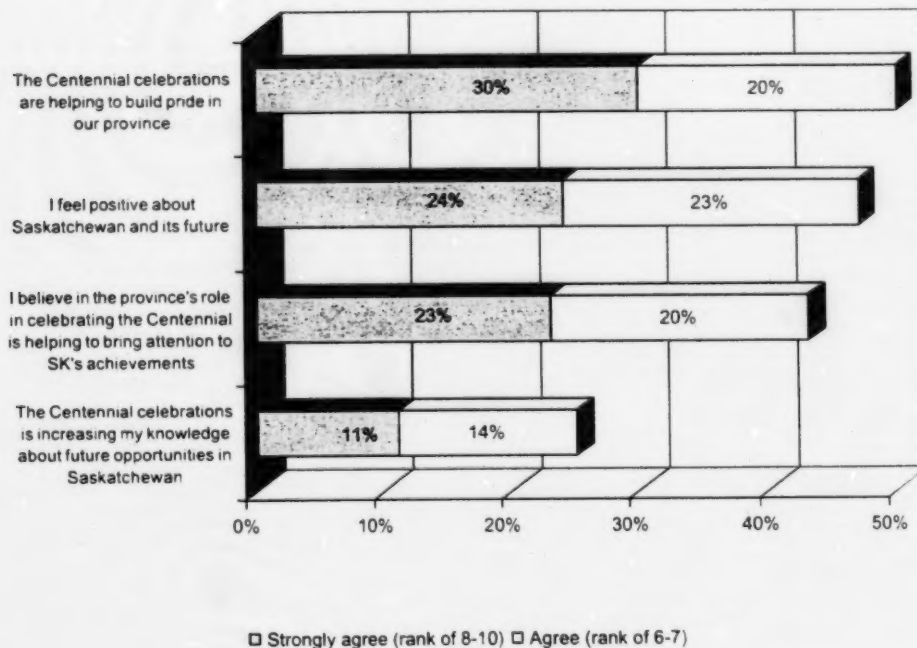
Question 6. I am now going to ask you to rate the following statements. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being strongly disagree and 10 being strongly agree can you tell me how much you agree with:



- Approximately one half of Saskatchewan residents agree that the Centennial celebrations are helping to build pride in our province (50%) and they feel positive about Saskatchewan and its future (47%).
- More than one third (43%) believe the provinces role in celebrating the Centennial is helping to bring attention to Saskatchewan's achievements and one quarter (25%) agree the Centennial celebrations are increasing their knowledge about future opportunities in Saskatchewan.

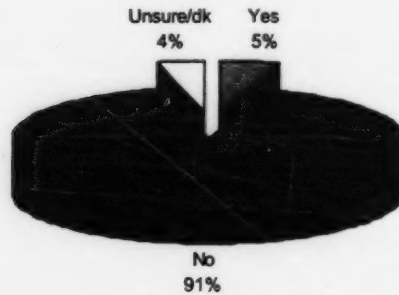


Question 6. I am now going to ask you to rate the following statements. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being strongly disagree and 10 being strongly agree can you tell me how much you agree with:



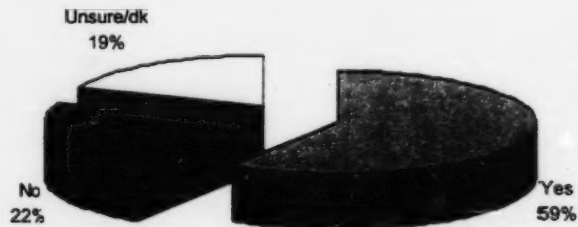
- Approximately one half of Saskatchewan residents agree that the Centennial celebrations are helping to build pride in our province (50%) and they feel positive about Saskatchewan and its future (47%).
- More than one third (43%) believe the provinces role in celebrating the Centennial is helping to bring attention to Saskatchewan's achievements and one quarter (25%) agree the Centennial celebrations are increasing their knowledge about future opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Question 7. Have you participated in planning for Saskatchewan's Centennial?



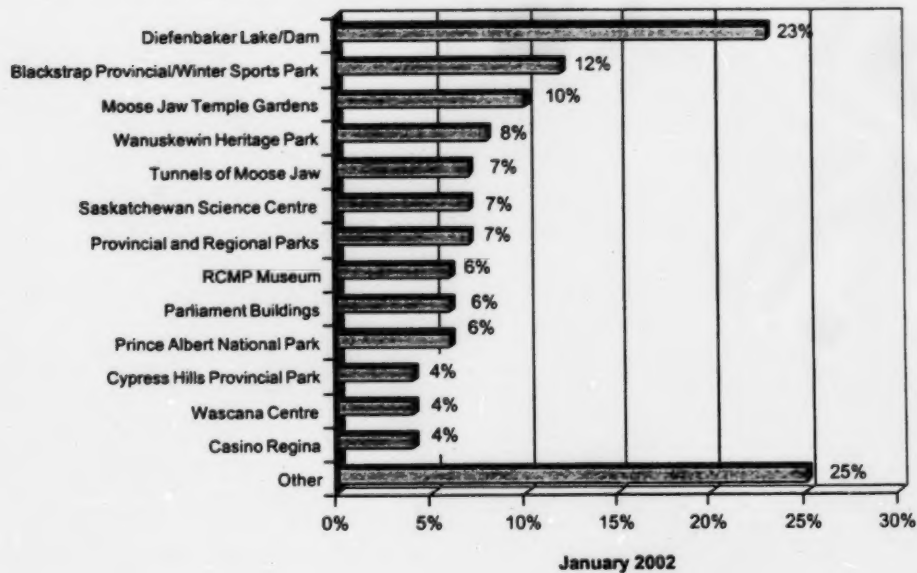
- One in twenty (5%) residents have participated in planning for Saskatchewan's Centennial.

Question 8. Do you intend to participate in any Centennial activities?



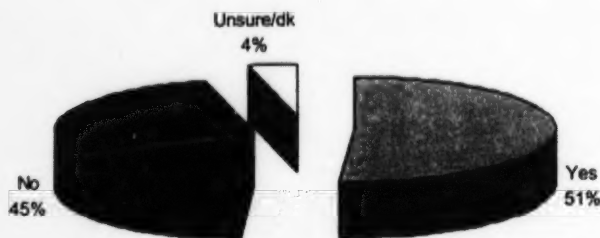
- The majority (59%) of Saskatchewan residents intend to participate in Centennial activities.

Question 9. Name Saskatchewan's top three man-made, or built, tourist attractions.



- Approximately 23% of Saskatchewan residents think Saskatchewan's top man-made tourist attraction is the Diefenbaker Lake and Dam, 12% mention Blackstrap Provincial and Winter Sports Park, 10% indicate the Moose Jaw Temple Gardens and 8% think Wanuskewin Heritage Park is Saskatchewan's top man-made tourist attraction.
- Included among 'other' man-made tourist attractions identified by 25% of residents are Manitou Springs Mineral Spa (2%), the Museum of Natural History (2%), Tobin Lake (2%), Batoche National Historic Site (2%), Western Development Museums (1%) and the Alameda Dam (1%).

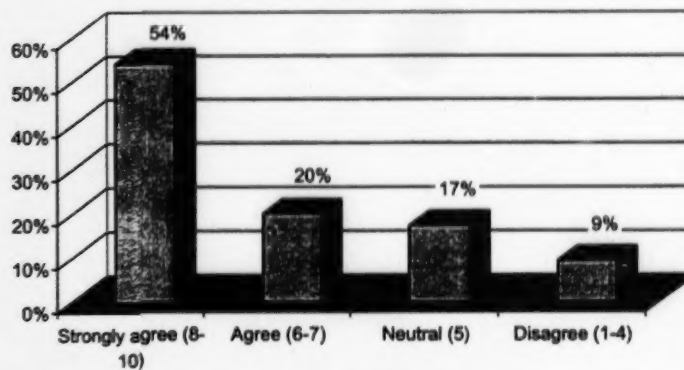
Question 10. Are you aware of the Government House Heritage Property, located in Regina?



- The majority (51%) of Saskatchewan residents are aware of the Government House Property in Regina.

Question 11. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 meaning that you strongly disagree and 10 meaning you strongly agree. How much do you agree with the following statement:

Government House, in Regina, is important to Saskatchewan's history.



January 2002

- Approximately three quarters (74%) of those residents aware of the Government House Property agree that Government House is important to Saskatchewan's history (43% of all Saskatchewan residents); the majority (54%) strongly agree (31% of all Saskatchewan residents).

**IMPORTANT NOTE CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING
PAGES**

**THE PAGES WHICH FOLLOW HAVE BEEN FILMED
TWICE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BEST
REPRODUCTIVE QUALITY**

**USERS SHOULD CONSULT ALL THE PAGES
REPRODUCED ON THE FICHE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN
A COMPLETE READING OF THE TEXT.**

**REMARQUE IMPORTANTE CONCERNANT LES
PAGES QUI SUIVENT**

**LES PAGES SUIVANTES ONT ÉTÉ REPRODUITES EN
DOUBLE AFIN D'AMÉLIORER LA QUALITÉ DE
REPRODUCTION**

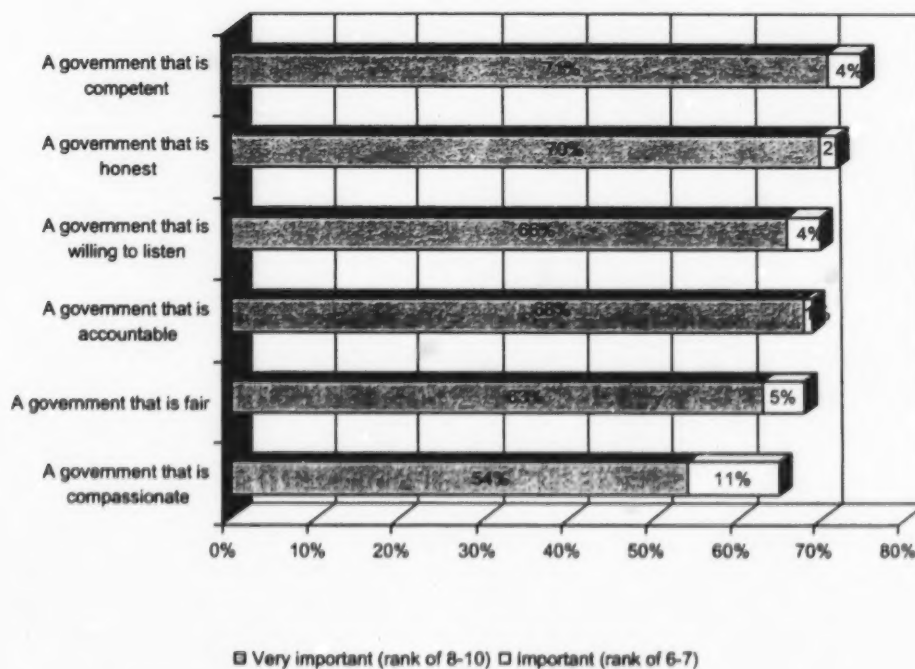
**LES UTILISATEURS DOIVENT CONSULTER TOUTES
LES PAGES REPRODUITES SUR LA FICHE AFIN
D'OBTENIR LA LECTURE DU TEXTE INTÉGRAL**

Micromedia
ProQuest

20 Victoria Street
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2N8
Tel.: (416) 362-5211
Toll Free: 1-800-387-2689
Fax: (416) 362-6161
Email: info@micromedia.on.ca

3.0 ACCOUNTABILITY

Question 12. I am now going to list a number of values, which people sometimes say they look for in their governments. As I list each value, give me a number between 1 and 10 with 1 meaning that value is not at all important to you personally, and 10 meaning that value is very important to you personally:

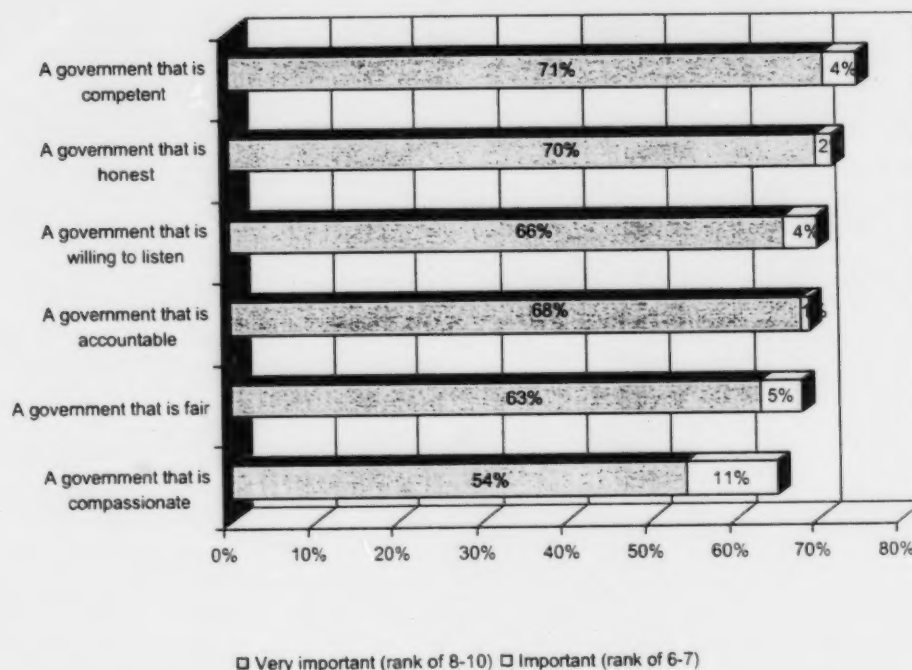


- While approximately three quarters of Saskatchewan residents think it is important that their government is competent (75%) and honest (72%); the majority think it is very important (rank of 8 to 10).
- Approximately two thirds of residents also place a high value on a government that exhibits a willingness to listen (70%), is accountable (59%), is fair (68%) and compassionate (66%).



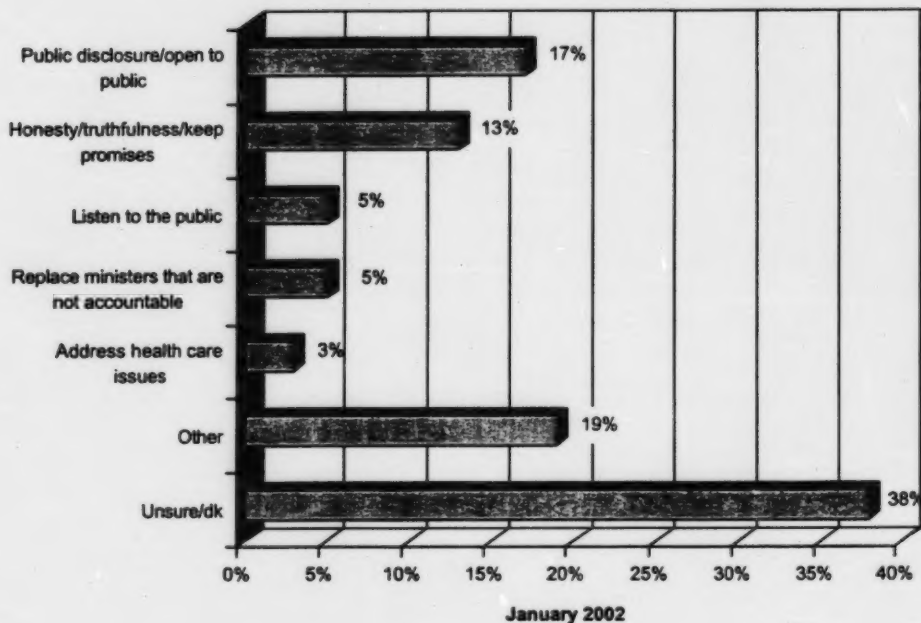
3.0 ACCOUNTABILITY

Question 12. I am now going to list a number of values, which people sometimes say they look for in their governments. As I list each value, give me a number between 1 and 10 with 1 meaning that value is not at all important to you personally, and 10 meaning that value is very important to you personally:



- While approximately three quarters of Saskatchewan residents think it is important that their government is competent (75%) and honest (72%); the majority think it is very important (rank of 8 to 10).
- Approximately two thirds of residents also place a high value on a government that exhibits a willingness to listen (70%), is accountable (69%), is fair (68%) and compassionate (66%).

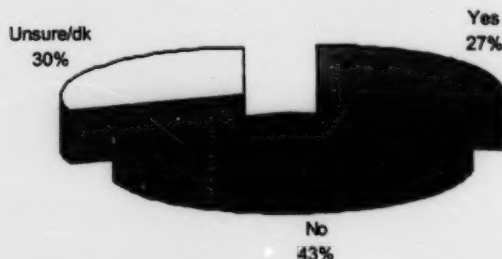
Question 13. I have one additional question on the issue of governments being accountable. What do you personally feel would be the single most important step that the Government of Saskatchewan could do to increase public accountability?



- Approximately 17% of Saskatchewan residents think the single most important steps the Government of Saskatchewan could do to increase public accountability would be to increase public disclosures and be more open to the public, 13% indicate 'be more honest', 'truthful' and 'keep promises'.
- Included among 'other' steps mentioned by 19% of respondents are reduce taxes (2%), address agricultural issues (2%), eliminate government expense accounts and reduce high salaries (2%) and improve equality (2%).

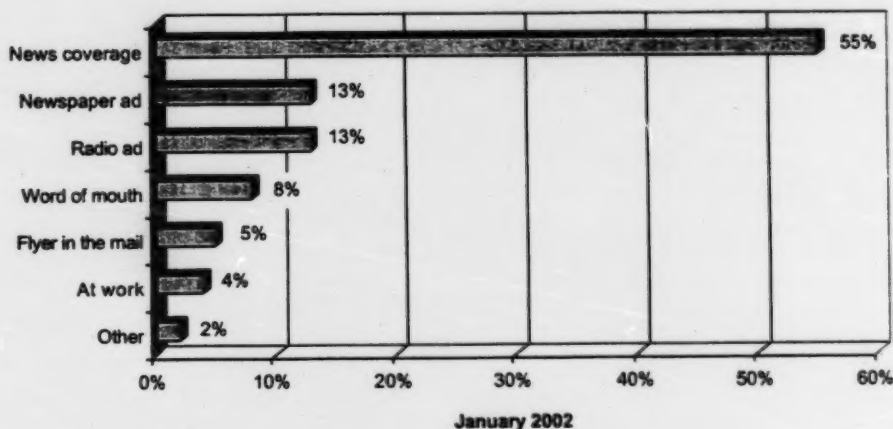
4.0 HEALTH CARE

Question 14. Have you heard about the recently announced Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care?



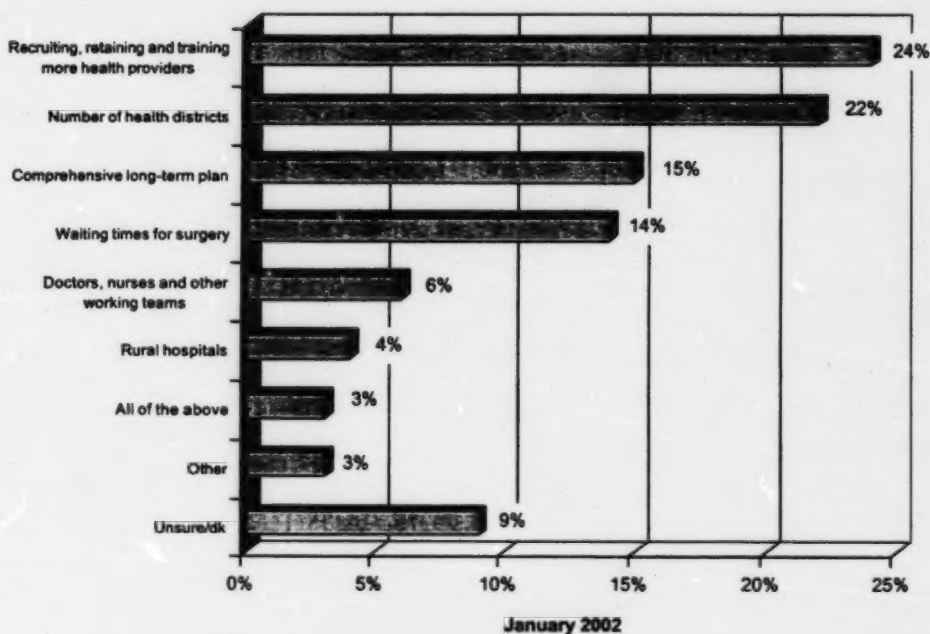
- In January 2002 only about one quarter (27%) of residents had heard about the recently announced Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care.

Question 15. Where did you hear about this plan?



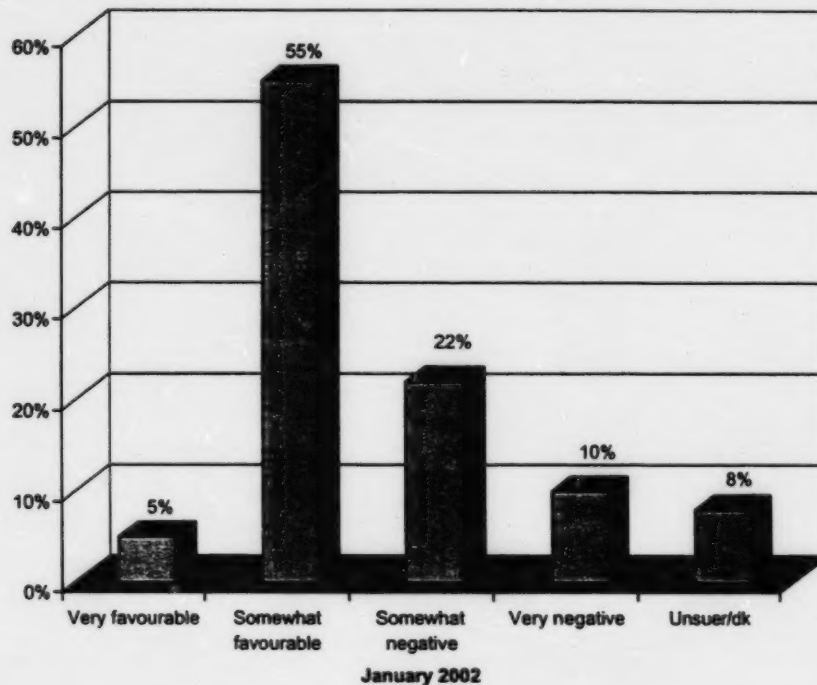
- The majority (55%) of those residents who are aware of the Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care learned about the Plan through news coverage (15% of all Saskatchewan residents); 31% (9% of all Saskatchewan residents) learned about the Plan through advertising.

Question 16. Which of the following issues would you say was the main focus of the Action Plan for Health Care?



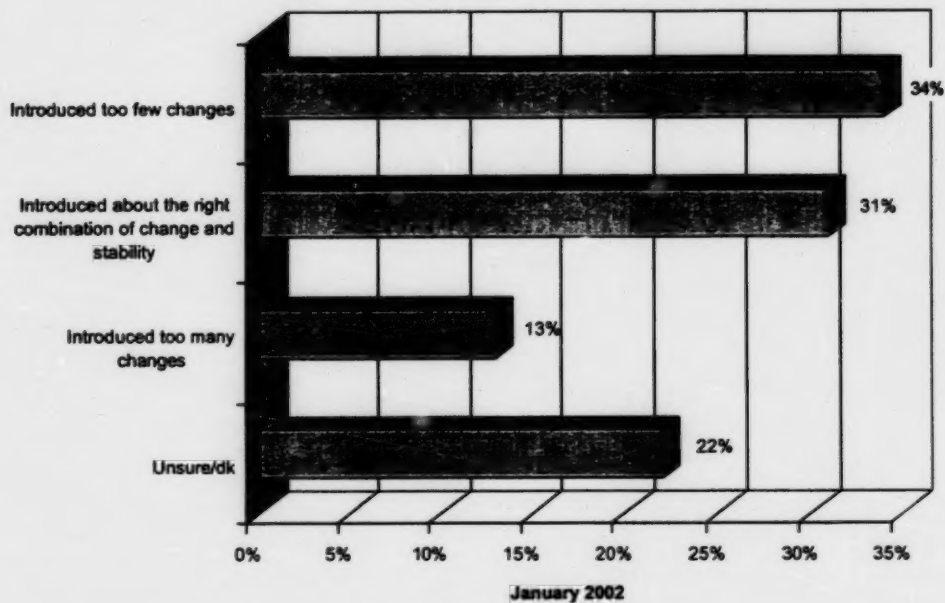
- Approximately 24% of those residents who are aware of the Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care think that the main focus of the Plan is recruiting, retaining and training more health providers (7% of all Saskatchewan residents); 22% think the Plan's main focus is addressing the number of health districts (6% of all Saskatchewan residents).
- Many residents also think the Plan is focused on developing a comprehensive long term plan for health care in Saskatchewan, reducing waiting times for surgery, or on doctors, nurses and other working teams as well as rural hospitals.

Question 17. Thinking of the Action Plan for Health Care, would you say your overall impression is very favourable, somewhat favourable, somewhat negative or very negative?



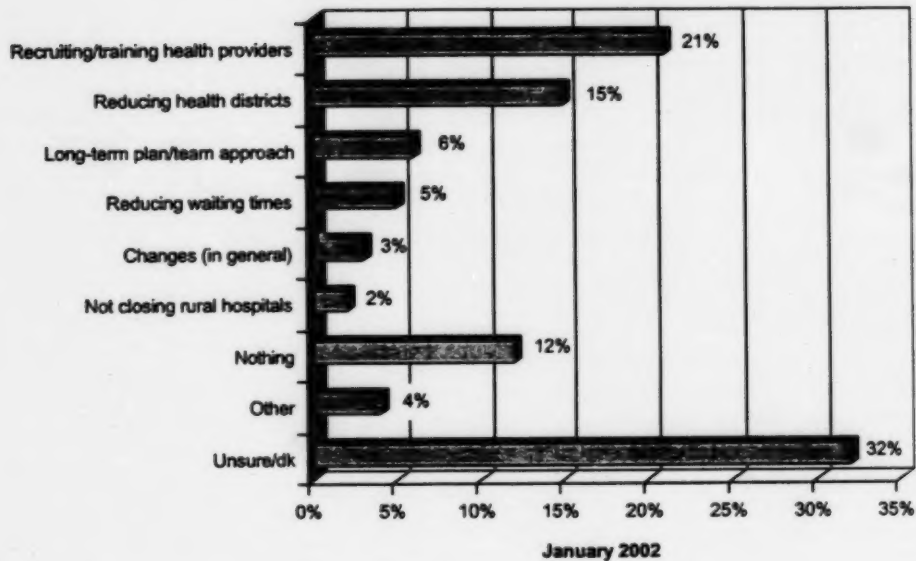
- The majority (60%) of those residents who are aware of the Action Plan for Health Care have an overall favourable impression of the Plan (17% of all Saskatchewan residents).

Question 18. With respect to the need for change in health care, would you say the Action Plan for Health Care introduced too many changes, introduced about the right combination of change and stability or introduced too few changes?



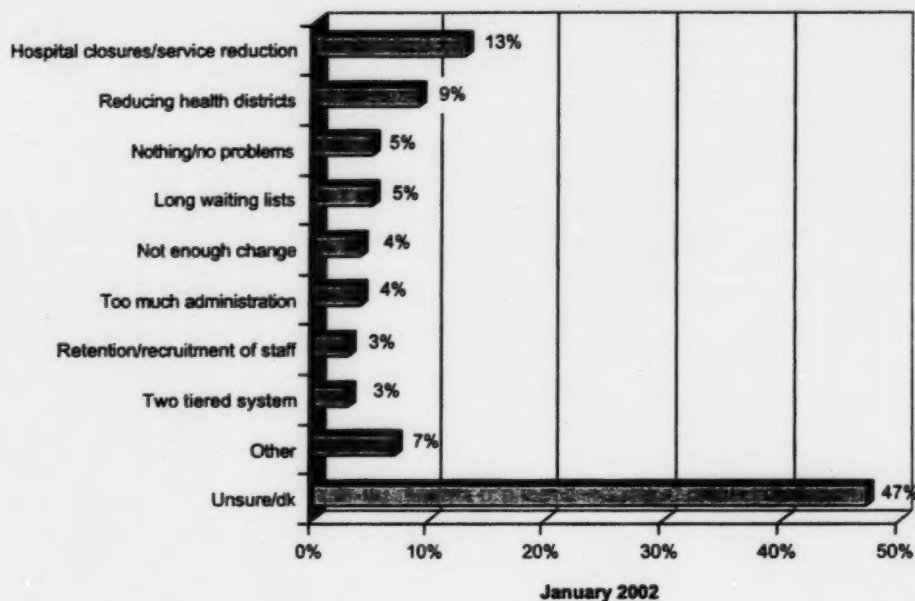
- Among those residents who are aware of the Action Plan for Health Care, one third (34%) think the it has introduced too few changes (9% of all Saskatchewan residents), 31% think it is introducing about the right combination of change and stability (9% of all Saskatchewan residents) while only 13% think that is has introduced too many changes to health care in the province (4% of all Saskatchewan residents).

Question 19. What feature of the Action Plan do you like the most?



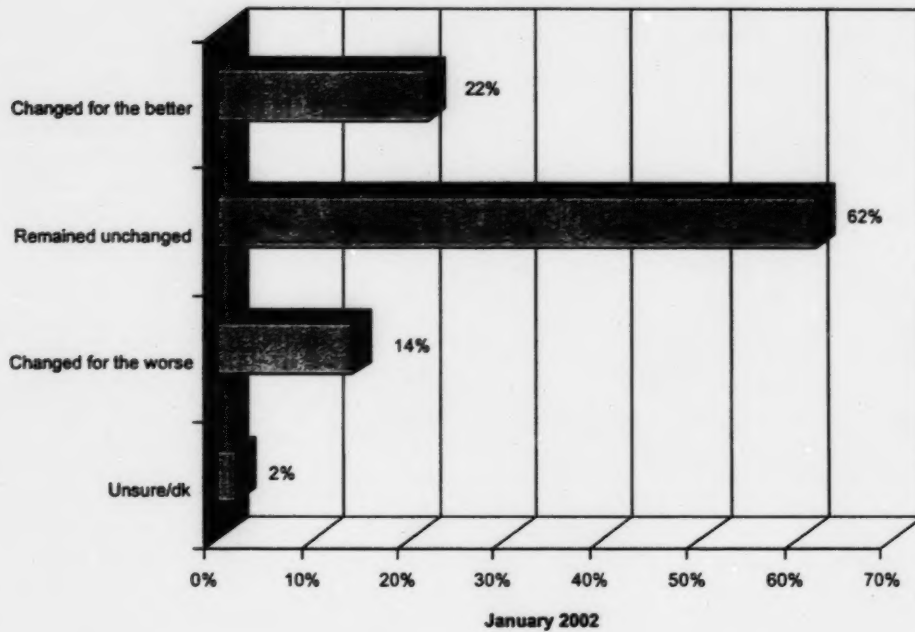
- Again, in terms of those residents who are aware of the Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care, one in five (21%) like most that it addresses the issue of recruitment and training of more health providers (6% of all Saskatchewan residents); 15% like most the feature of the Plan that focused on reducing the number of health districts (4% of all Saskatchewan residents).

Question 20. What feature of the Action Plan do you like the least?



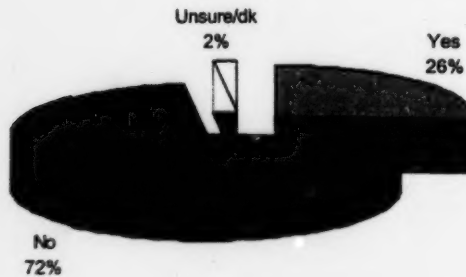
- When respondents are asked to discuss features of the Action Plan they least like, they often respond with what they think are possible trends with health care in Saskatchewan and Canada, as opposed to features of the Plan. With this in mind, approximately 13% of those residents who are aware of the Plan do not like hospital closures and service reduction (4% of all Saskatchewan residents) and 9% do not like reducing the number of health districts (2% of all Saskatchewan residents).

Question 21. As a result of the Action Plan, has your recent view about the future of health services in Saskatchewan....



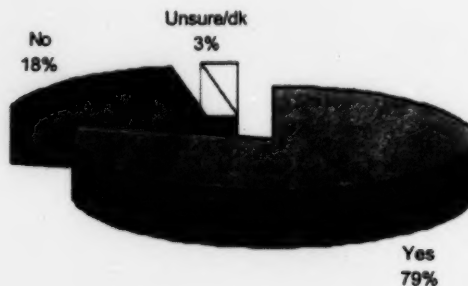
- The majority (62%) of those residents who are aware of the Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care indicate their recent view of the future of health services in Saskatchewan has remained unchanged (17% of all Saskatchewan residents).

Question 22. Do you recall receiving a printed summary of the Action Plan for Health Care in the mail recently?



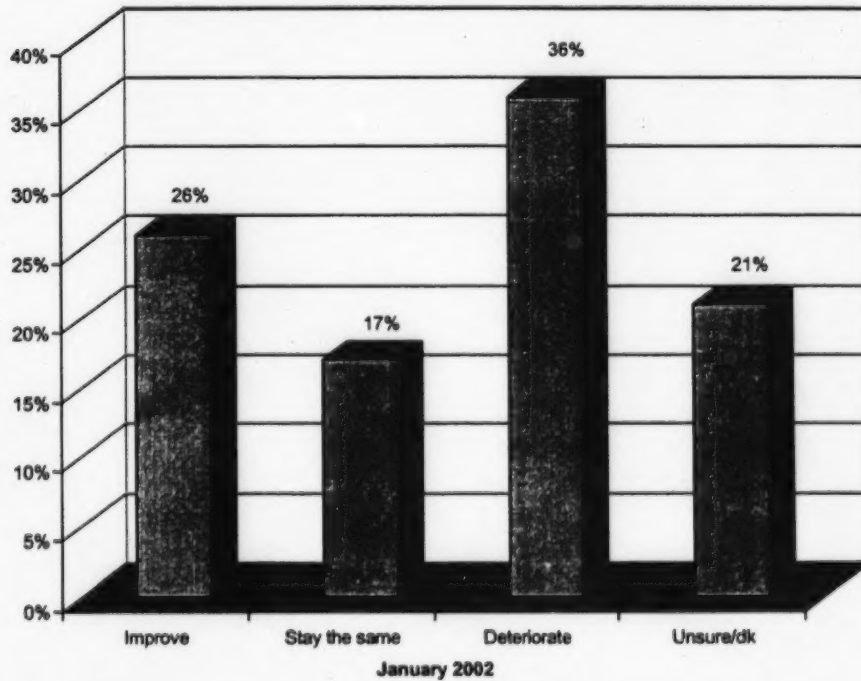
One quarter (26%) of those residents who have heard of the Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care recall receiving a printed summary of the Action Plan for Health Care in their mail recently (7% of all Saskatchewan residents).

Question 23. Have you read the summary?



- More than three quarters (79%) of those residents who recall receiving a printed summary of the Action Plan for Health Care in the mail have read the summary (6% of all Saskatchewan residents).

Question 24. Over the next 10 years, do you expect health services in Saskatchewan will improve, deteriorate or stay the same?



- Approximately 43% of Saskatchewan residents expect health services in Saskatchewan to improve or stay the same over the next 10 years (the majority of residents expressing an opinion).

**IMPORTANT NOTE CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING
PAGES**

**THE PAGES WHICH FOLLOW HAVE BEEN FILMED
TWICE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BEST
REPRODUCTIVE QUALITY**

**USERS SHOULD CONSULT ALL THE PAGES
REPRODUCED ON THE FICHE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN
A COMPLETE READING OF THE TEXT.**

**REMARQUE IMPORTANTE CONCERNANT LES
PAGES QUI SUIVENT**

**LES PAGES SUIVANTES ONT ÉTÉ REPRODUITES EN
DOUBLE AFIN D'AMÉLIORER LA QUALITÉ DE
REPRODUCTION**

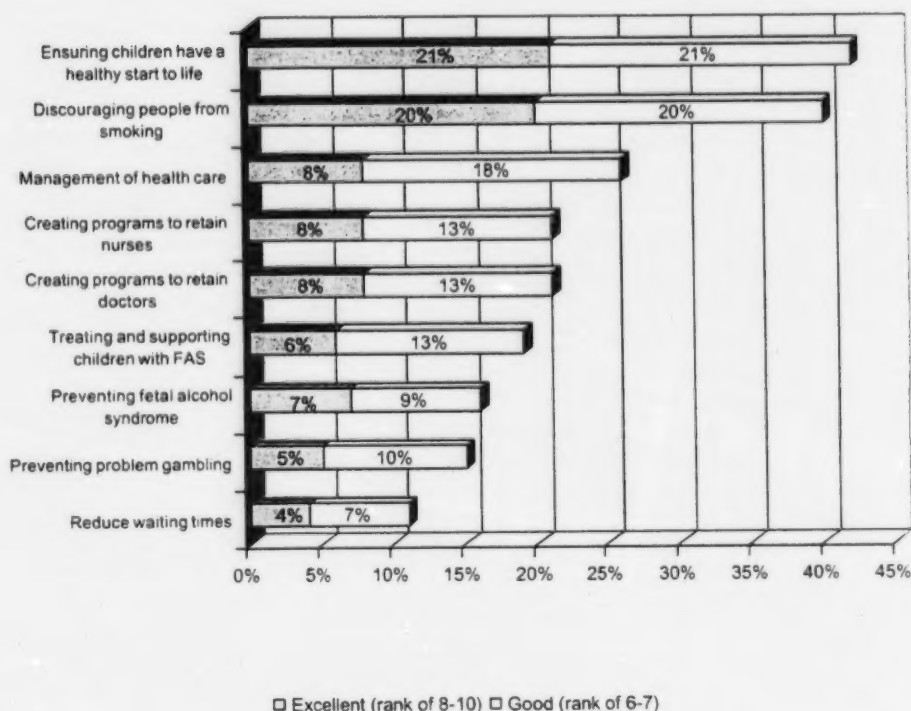
**LES UTILISATEURS DOIVENT CONSULTER TOUTES
LES PAGES REPRODUITES SUR LA FICHE AFIN
D'OBTENIR LA LECTURE DU TEXTE INTÉGRAL**

Micromedia
ProQuest

20 Victoria Street
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2N8
Tel.: (416) 362-5211
Toll Free: 1-800-387-2689
Fax: (416) 362-6161
Email: info@micromedia.on.ca

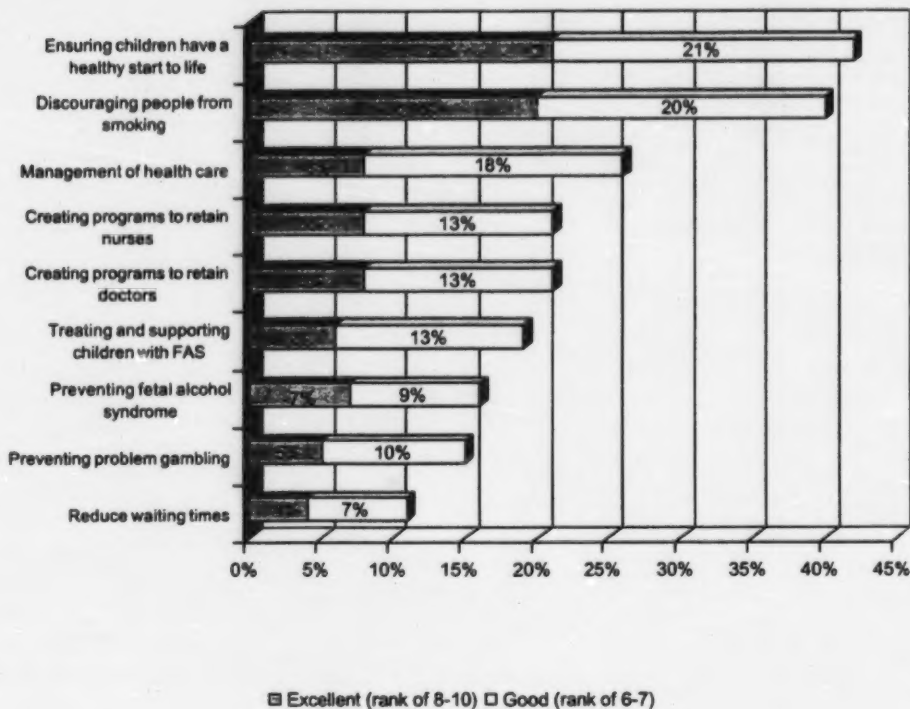


Question 25. I will now read a number of tasks related to the delivery of health care services. As I read each one, please tell me how you rate the provincial government's performance, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means very poor and 10 means excellent.



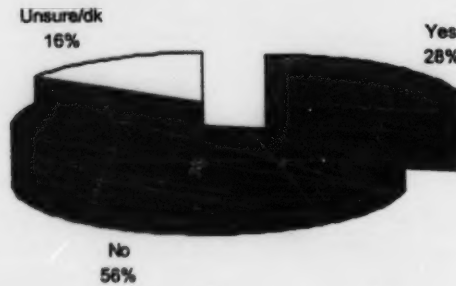
- More than one third of Saskatchewan residents think the provincial government's performance is doing a good or excellent job in terms of ensuring that children have a healthy start to life (42%) and discouraging people from smoking (40%). Fewer residents think the provincial government's performance is doing a good or excellent job in terms of managing health care (26%), creating programs to retain nurses (21%) and doctors (21%) and treating and supporting children with fetal alcohol syndrome (19%).

Question 25. I will now read a number of tasks related to the delivery of health care services. As I read each one, please tell me how you rate the provincial government's performance, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means very poor and 10 means excellent.



- More than one third of Saskatchewan residents think the provincial government's performance is doing a good or excellent job in terms of ensuring that children have a healthy start to life (42%) and discouraging people from smoking (40%). Fewer residents think the provincial government's performance is doing a good or excellent job in terms of managing health care (26%), creating programs to retain nurses (21%) and doctors (21%) and treating and supporting children with fetal alcohol syndrome (19%).

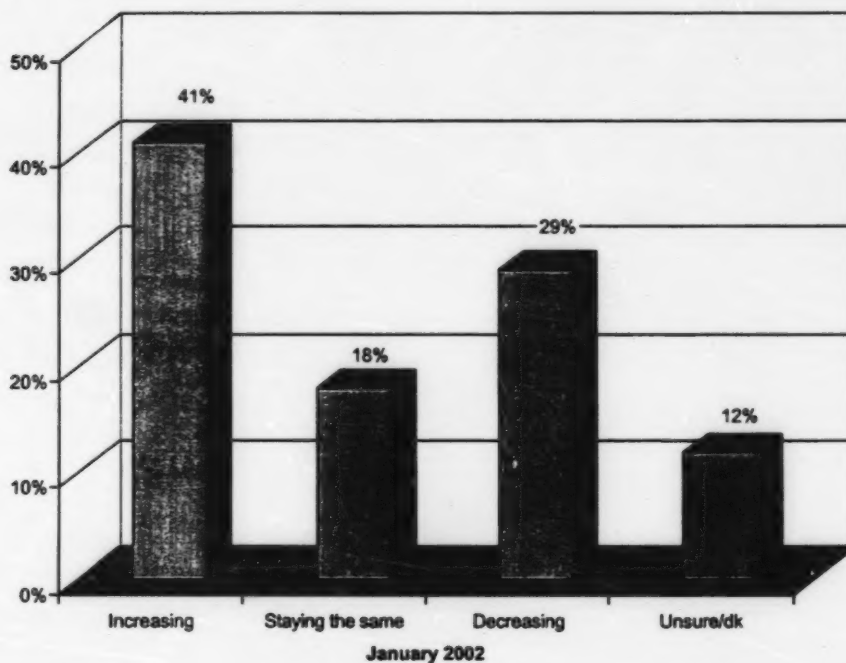
Question 26. Do you or anyone in your immediate family work as a health care provider?



- More than one quarter (28%) of residents indicate they or someone in their immediate family work as a health care provider.

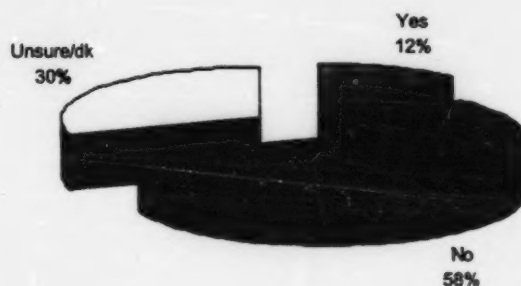
5.0 SOCIAL SERVICES

Question 27. On the whole would you say the number of people in Saskatchewan receiving welfare has been increasing, decreasing or staying about the same over the last four years?



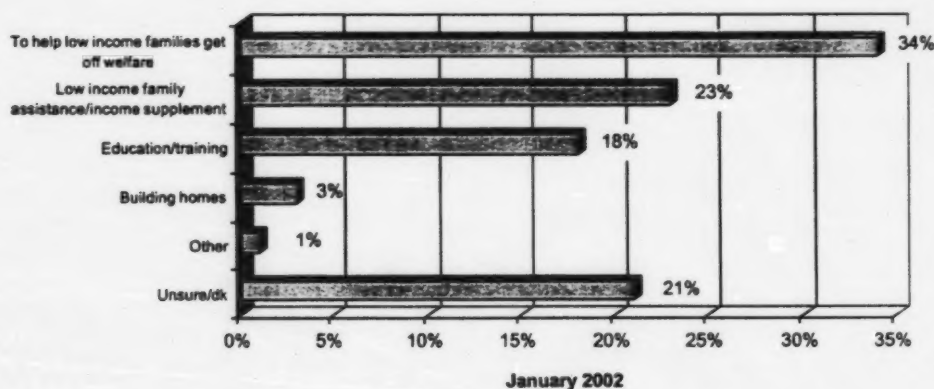
- Although the number of people in Saskatchewan receiving welfare has decreased over the last four years, the majority of Saskatchewan residents are of the impression that the number has actually increased or stayed the same.

Question 28. Have you heard about the government program called "Building Independence"?



- Only about one in ten (12%) Saskatchewan residents have heard about the government program called "Building Independence".

Question 28b. What kind of program is it?

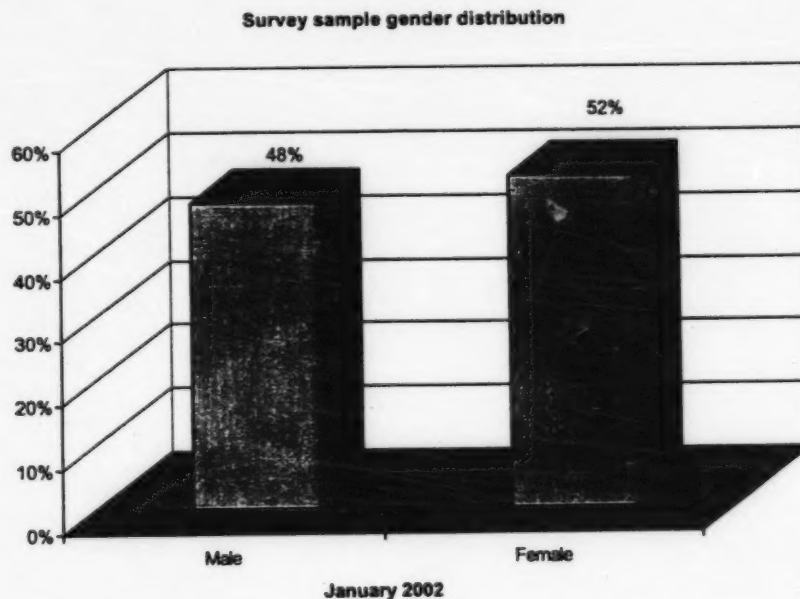


- Although public awareness of the program is relatively low, perceptions regarding its purpose appear to be accurate. One third (34%) of those residents who have heard of "Building Independence" think the program is designed to help low income families get off welfare (5% of all Saskatchewan residents), 23% think "Building Independence" is low income family assistance or income supplement (3% of all Saskatchewan residents) and 18% mention education and training (3% of all Saskatchewan residents).

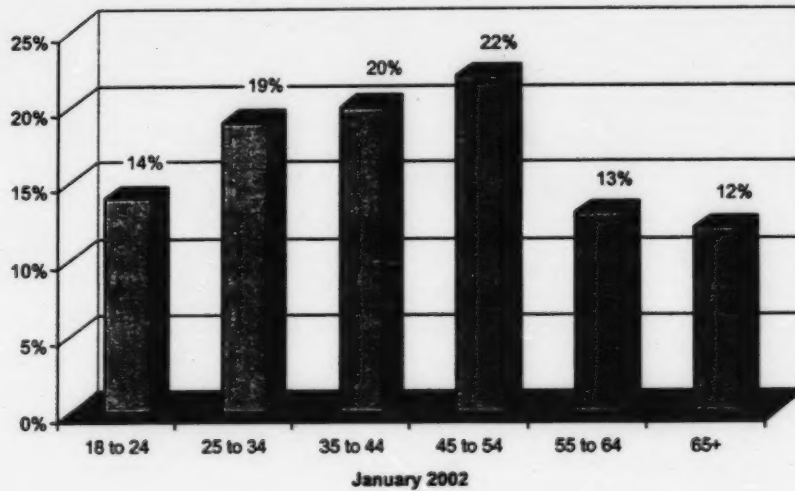
APPENDIX II SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

The omnibus public opinion sample frame is constructed to facilitate proportionate representation of various demographic characteristics evident within the province of Saskatchewan. This ensures that opinions of all the various types of residents in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report. The demographic distributions from the survey sample generally parallel the province's actual population distributions, as measured by Statistics Canada census data.

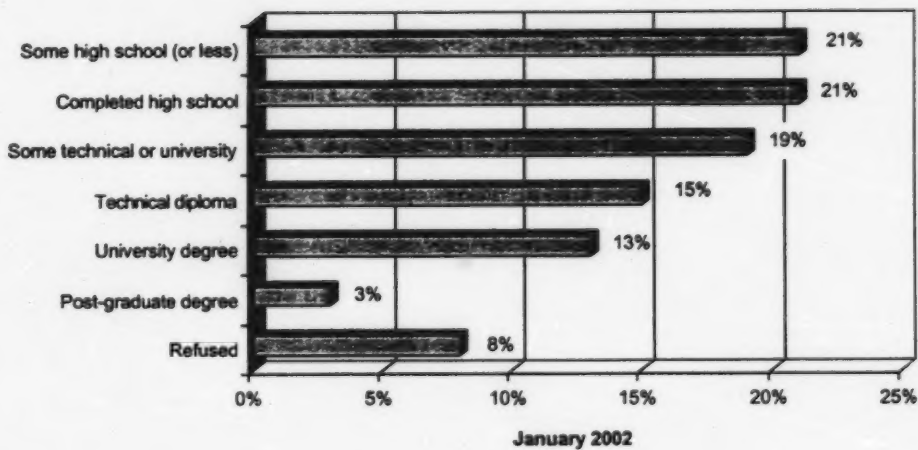
The omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error for the point estimates contained in this report of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.



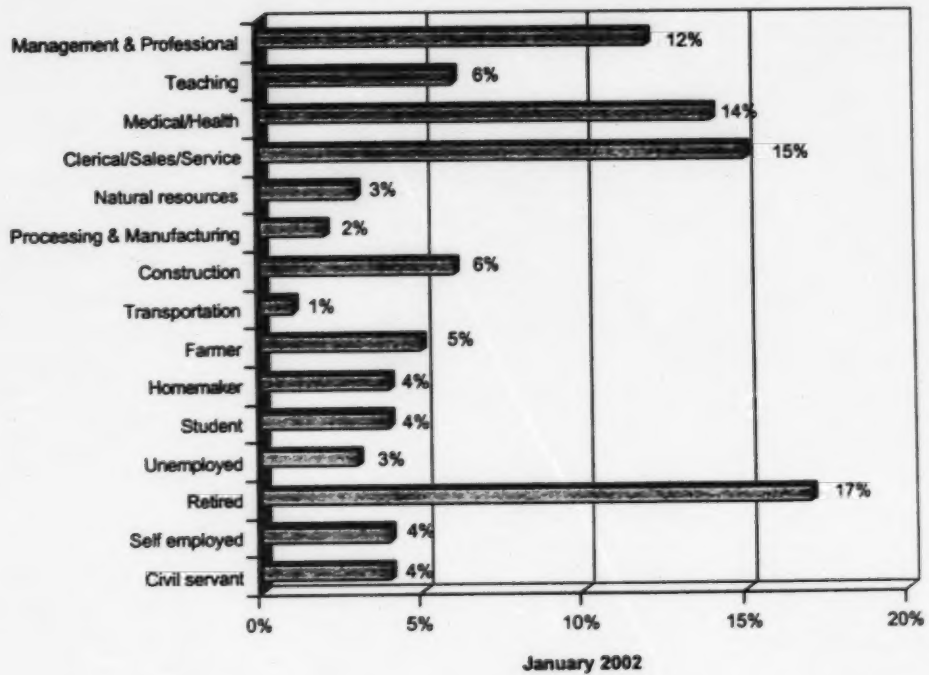
Survey sample age distribution



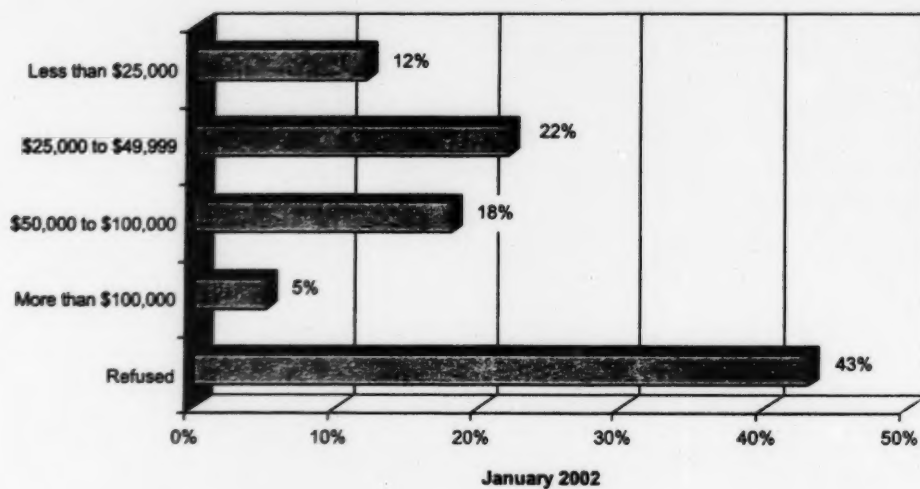
Survey sample education distribution



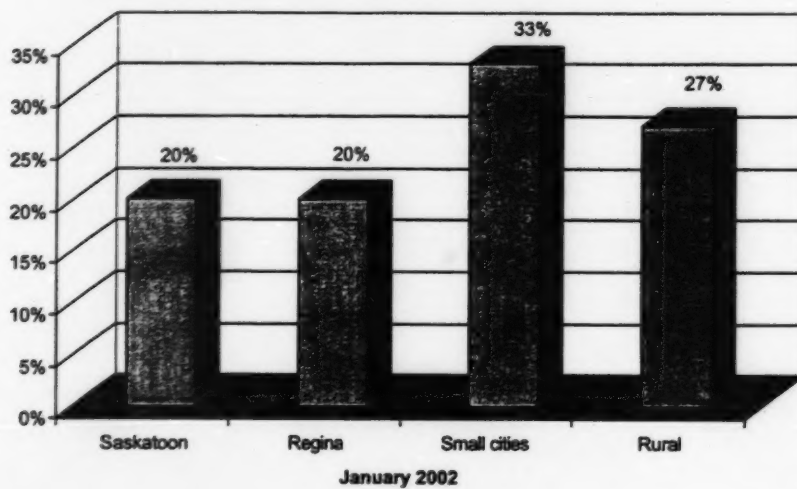
Survey sample occupation distribution



Survey sample income distribution



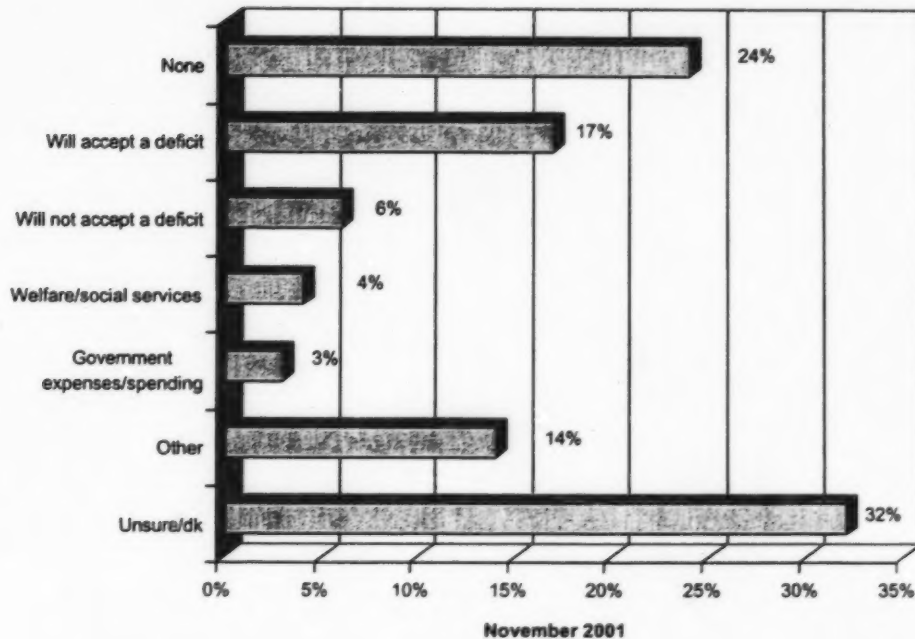
Survey sample regional distribution



**Budget-related Questions
Withheld Prior to the budget**

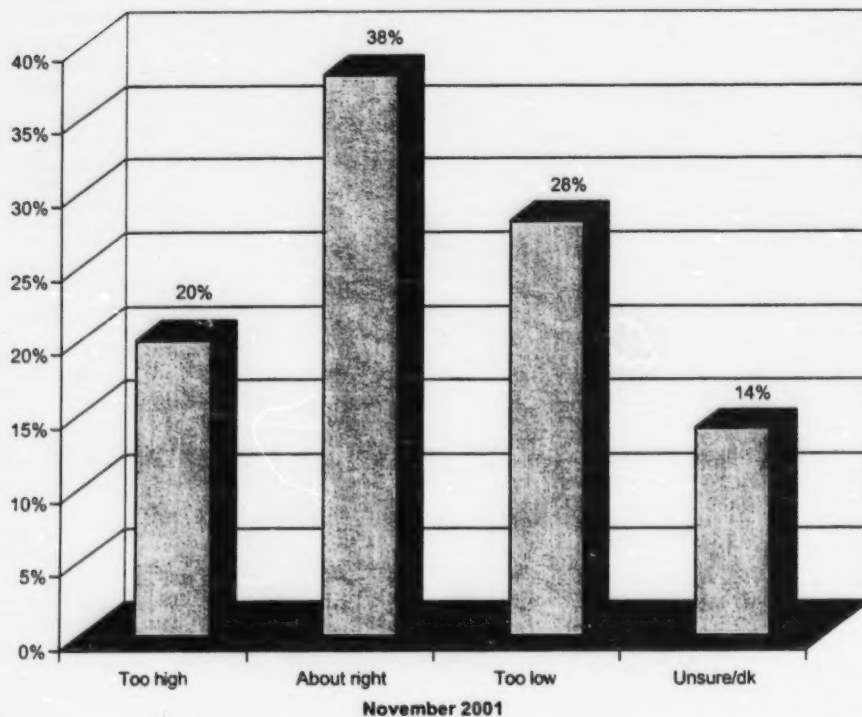
November 2001

Question 41. If taxes were to be lowered further, what services would you be willing to give up, or would you accept a deficit?



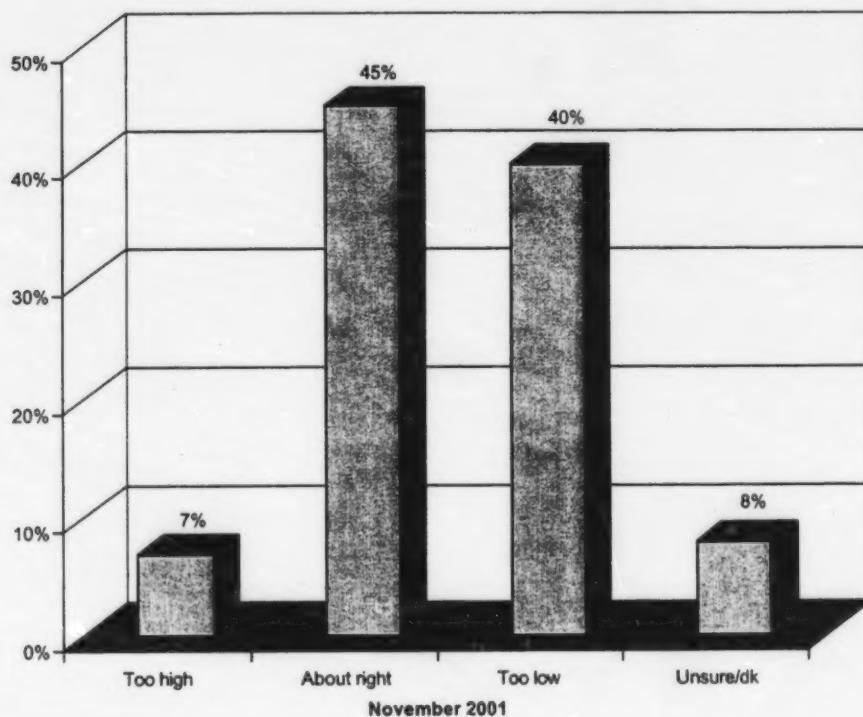
- Approximately one quarter (24%) of Saskatchewan residents would not be willing to give up any services to lower taxes any further, 17% indicate they would be willing to accept a deficit to have lower taxes.
- Included among 'other' services they would be willing to give if taxes were to be lowered identified by 14% of respondents include charging a user fee on health care (2%), reduce some services (2%), all services should be lowered (2%), give up health care (2%) and reduce the size of government (2%).

Question 42. The provincial government assists the agriculture industry through a combination of targeted tax reductions and spending on income support and stabilization programs. This provincial farm assistance has totaled \$970 million in the last three years - an average of more than \$323 million a year. In your opinion, is this level of assistance from the provincial government...



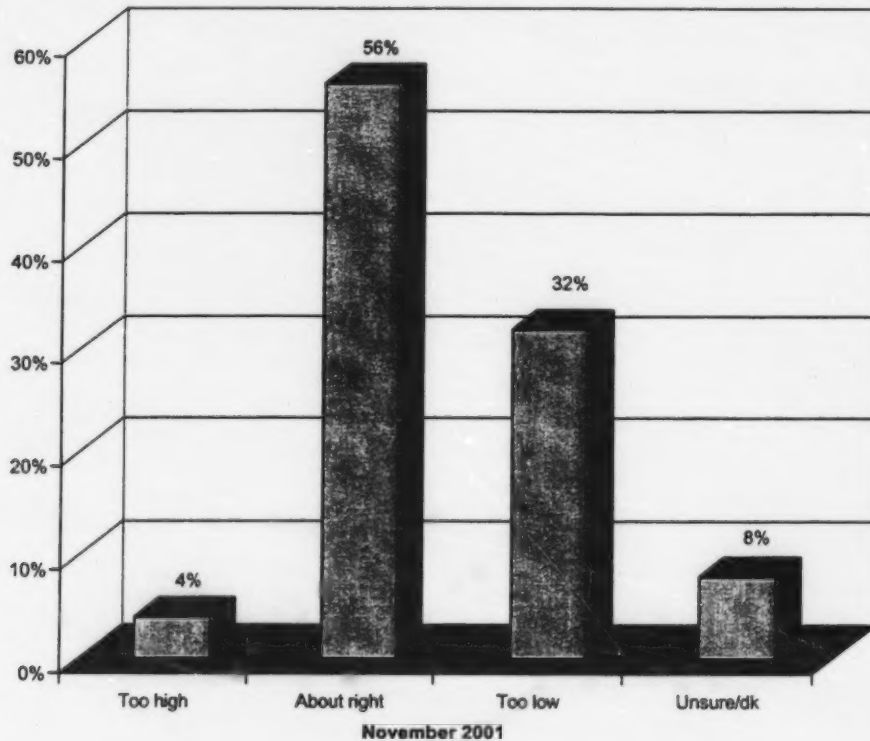
- More than one third (38%) of residents think the provincial farm assistance of more than \$323 million a year is about right; 28% think the assistance is too low and 20% think it is too high.

Question 43. This year, the provincial government will spend 39 per cent of its annual budget (\$2.2 billion) on health care. In your opinion, is this level of assistance from the provincial government...



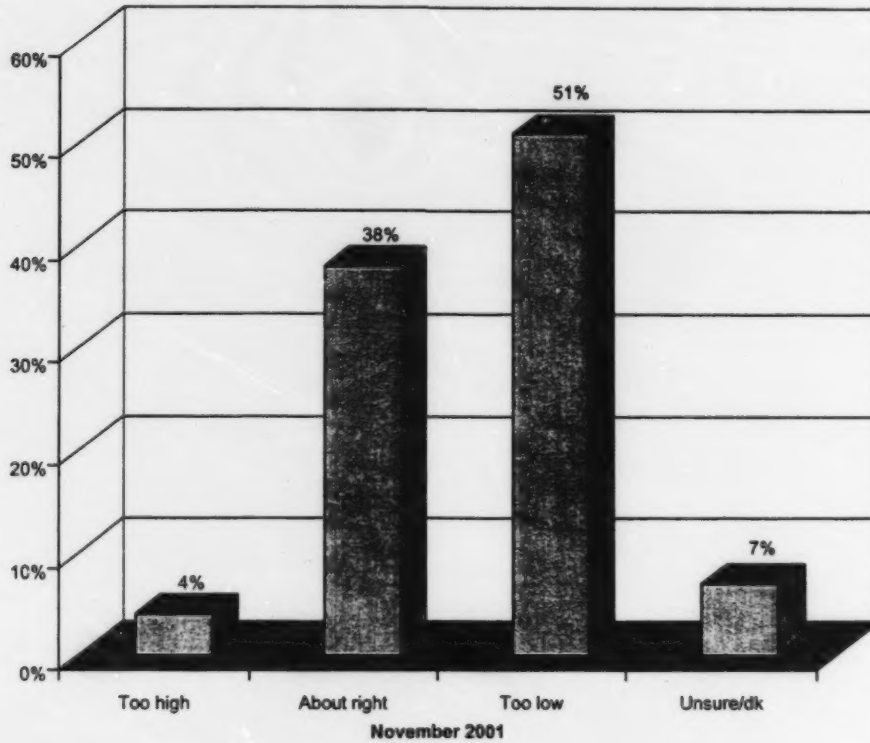
- Approximately 45% of Saskatchewan residents think the level of health care spending by the provincial government is about right; 40% think it is too low.

Question 44. This year, the provincial government will spend 20 per cent of its annual budget (\$1.1 billion) on all levels of education and training. In your opinion, is this level of assistance...



- The majority (56%) of residents think the level of provincial government support for all levels of education and training is about right.

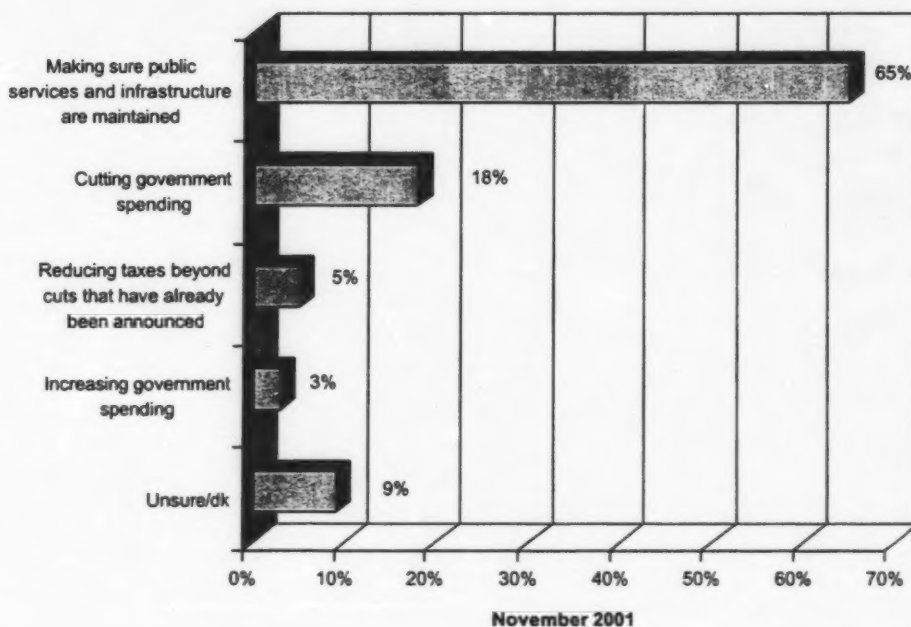
Question 45. This year, the provincial government will spend 6 per cent of its budget (\$311 million) on highways. In your opinion, is this level of assistance...



- The majority (51%) of Saskatchewan residents think the level of provincial government spending for highways is too low; 38% think it is about right.

Question 46. Given the current downturn in the global economy, should the provincial government's focus be on:

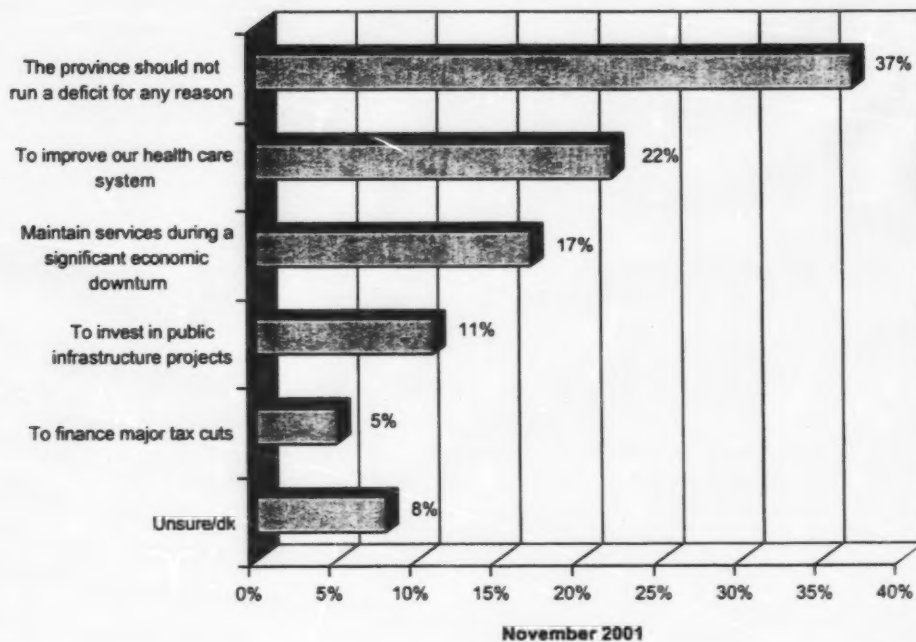
- 1) Reducing taxes beyond cuts that have already been announced.
- 2) Cutting government spending.
- 3) Increasing government spending.
- 4) Making sure core public services (health, education, etc.) and infrastructure (roads, water & sewer, etc.) are maintained while holding the line on taxes and other services.



- The majority (65%) of Saskatchewan residents think the provincial government should focus on making sure core public services like health and education and infrastructure like roads, water and sewer are maintained while holding the line on taxes and other services.

Question 47. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects your viewpoint?

- 1) A deficit would be acceptable in the short term to invest in public infrastructure projects such as roads or sewer & water improvements.
- 2) A deficit would be acceptable in the short term to improve our health system.
- 3) A deficit would be acceptable in the short term to finance major tax cuts.
- 4) A deficit would be acceptable in the short term to maintain services during a significant economic downturn.
- 5) The province should not run a deficit for any reason.



- More than one third (37%) of residents think the province should not run a deficit for any reason. Approximately 22% think a deficit would be acceptable in the short term to improve our health system, 17% indicate a deficit would be acceptable in the short term to maintain services during a significant economic downturn and 11% think a deficit would be acceptable in the short term to invest in public infrastructure projects such as roads or sewer and water improvements.